(b) whether it is also a fact that several cases of violation under Excise Act, pending since 1980 are not yet completed;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what action has been taken against the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for violation of the provisions under FERA and Excise Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Informations being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Hazardous chemical units in Gujarat

2476. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether Gujarat has the largest number of hazardous chemical units as per I.L.O. supported project report published in the Indian Express of the 17th October, 1988 and if so, what corrective steps the Central Government have taken or propose take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): Yes, Sir. According to I.L.O. report there are 65 hazardous chemical units in Gujarat. The State Government has taken the following steps to deal with hazards posed by these units:

(1) Out of 65 units the on-site emergency plans have been prepared in respect of 60 units.

(2) The State Government has prepared off-site plans in respect of six districts where such units are concentrated.

(3) A coordination Committee to deal with chemical emergencies has been set up and a nodal department has been identified to deal with crisis situations.

(4) A Central scheme has been initiated to strengthen the management structure for handling of hazardous substances in the State.

(5) In service training for the officers and staff of Pollution Control Board and Inspectorate of Factories in the multi-disciplinary area of hazard and risk assessment is also imparted.

Sea beaches owned by Private Company

2477. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have recently removed embargo on owning sea beaches by private companies;

(b) whether a number of private companies approached the Central Government for permission to own sea beaches and if so, the names thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for removing such an embargo; and

(d) how far it will effect country's environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Government have not imposed any embargo on the ownership of sea beaches by private companies. The Government have issued guidelines for restricting certain activities within 500 metres of the high tide line, so as to protect the aesthetic, ecological and cultural values of the sea beaches.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.